BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2005

THE BARN THAT WAS AT BUNCOM

It's getting so that you almost have to be an old-timer around here to remember the barn that once stood across the road from the Hennions' gate just south of Buncom.

According to the State of Oregon Inventory of Historic Properties description written in 1979:

"The barn is a large, rectangular hewn frame structure with a gable room, covered with shingles and sheet metal. This is a wide-opening barn with a lean-to on the south elevation. The exterior is of wrought-sawn, vertical planks and the hews framing is held together with wood pegs. This structure is in poor condition.

"The barn, constructed between 1860-1880, has significance in two possible areas. First, it is representative of a construction type (hewn frame) which is becoming rare in the region. Secondly, due to its close location to Buncom, it may have been associated with the extensive mining operations in the area from the 1850's into the 1910's."

Unfortunately, due to lack of care, the barn collapsed in the mid-1980s.

When the Hennions purchased the property in 1989 and subsequently built their home, designer Ron Marchetti was able to use beams from the fallen barn to create a mantelpiece for their living room, and also to build the gate that stands at the road today with the sign, "Buncom Ranch." Also, when Marchetti designed a new look for Jacksonville shop Terra Firma some years ago, he incorporated wood from the barn into the cabinets.

After salvaging all the wood possible, the remainder was burned and today there is no trace of the barn.

The Buncom Barn, in a photo donated by Evelyn Williams and probably taken in the 1970s.

IT'S TIME FOR BUNCOM DAY

It must almost be time for Memorial Day and the official start of the summer season, because another Buncom Day is upon us.

The annual doin's -- it's our 12th annual celebration this year -- is set for Saturday, May 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Buncom. Admission as always is free, and families are welcome.

As usual, there will be a host of activities for kids and grownups alike. Craft vendors, live music, children's activities, the Country Store and lunch offered by the Lions Club are among the attractions. And of course, the Buncom Day parade at 12:30!

If you would like to be a vendor at Buncom Day or would like more information, contact Connie Fowler, 899-7805, or Reeve and Lyn Hennion, 899-7656.

Who Cares What the Women Were Doing?

Connie Fowler went back through some of the columns she has written for other publications in the past, and found this wonderful story related by Society member Alice Matheny:

Last month I received a wonderful letter from Alice Matheny and I had to share it with you. She was in the process of reading "Buncom: Crossroads Station," and the section on women and their role in history, reminded her of her Grandmother. After a nice comment about the book, she wrote:

"I was thinking about your comments on women and their roles in history ("Who cares what the women were doing?") and read aloud to Bruce (husband) the pages on Lillian Hukill. I read him the section in which she mowed, raked, and baled on a hillside with men standing on the tractor so it wouldn't tip, then went home to see how her dinner was doing in the Miracle Maid pan on the stove, because her husband was unable to mow, rake, and bale but also was apparently unable to peel vegetables and put them on the stove.

"I thought about my Grandma and Grandad, who had a ranch in southern Idaho near the Snake River until around 1924. I have some priceless black and white photos of Grandad, grin splitting his face, driving one of his teams of draft horses, driving his big steam tractor, cutting and stacking hay, grinding corn, harvesting grain, and breaking colts.

"There's only about one picture of Grandma, so I asked Mom what Grandma was doing while all that activity was going on. Mom said that, on Mondays alone, Grandma would hitch one of the teams to the sledge, load empty wooden barrels on, drive the team down to the Snake River where she would fill the barrels, then drive back up to the house to split wood, build a fire, heat the water and do a large wash which she would then dry and iron with sadirons heated on the wood stove. Presumably, during that time she also took care of the children and cooked the usual number of meals.

"What were the women doing? Nobody would be interested in that!"

Thanks, Alice, I think you should write a book.

Excuses, Excuses ...

Another offering from Connie Fowler:

Naturally I had to talk about the weather and how we now only have two seasons, summer and winter. Obviously, this can catch us unaware, but there are some advantages. For instance, you only need two sets of clothes. Tank tops and shorts; sweaters and sweats. This means only two times when you put warm clothes away and cool clothes in the dresser drawers and visa versa.

For me it is only two trips up and down the stairs where I store things. Of course it also means the drawers only get cleaned out and straightened up two times a year instead of four. And that the upstairs gets visited less often. I now only say, "I really should clean up here" twice instead of four times.

BUNCOM WORK PARTY MAY 21

Come join us Saturday, May 21, at 10 a.m. to clean up the Buncom grounds in preparation for Buncom Day. Bring weed-eaters, rakes, brooms, pitchforks. We'll be done before noon. Thanks in advance for everyone's help.

Thanks, Frank!

Our sincere thanks to Frank Maesen, who repaired the broken door of the Post Office with his usual professional and creative touch.

Vandals first broke the central panel some months ago, and for a while we were able to put it back together. But finally it was in need of professional repair, and Frank was kind enough to do it.

Have you renewed your membership?

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2005, this will be your last issue of the Newsletter.

If you're not sure whether you have renewed, look at your mailing label. If there is a "Y" in the bottom right corner, you have renewed. If there is an "N", be sure to send your $5.00 renewal right away to Buncom Historical Society, 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

A SPECIAL THANKS ...

Along with their dues, several of our members sent additional donations. We would like to offer our additional thanks for their generous support:

CDS Publications
Don & Luana Perry
Otto & Ginny Spechtenhauser
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Regina Mainwaring
Lind McBeth
John & Tommi Retzlaff
Marvin & Lilli Ann Rosenberg
Dave & Louise Doran

THANKS TO THESE NEW OR RENEWING MEMBERS

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BUNCOM DAY:

SATURDAY, MAY 28

10 A.M. - 3 P.M.

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Buncom Book Still Available

The book about Buncom, "Buncom: Crossroads Station," is still available for purchase from the Society. Including mailing, the cost is $18.00. Plese send a check to Buncom Historical Society, 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

The book also will be available at Buncom Day.

DIRECTORS

Reeve Hennion, President Lyn Hennion	899-7656
J.B. Roberts, Secretary Carolyn Roberts, Treasurer	899-1125
Ben Fowler Connie Fowler	899-7805

The Buncom Historical Society is a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving the buildings and history of the ghost town of Buncom, Oregon. Society address: 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

On the Internet:
www.buncom.org

To join the Society, send $5.00 with your name and address to the Society at 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.